

Consular Pact Draws Senate Attack But Mansfield Expects Ratification

By Robert C. Albright
Washington Post Staff Writer

The U.S. consular treaty with the Soviet Union ran into a barrage of criticism and proposed reservations in the Senate yesterday.

The vehement attack threatened to delay final action until next week. However, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.) said he still

feels the pact will be ratified without change.

The criticism broke out during a closed conference of Senate Republicans and later spread to the Senate floor where two Democrats, Sens. Herman E. Talmadge (Ga.) and Thomas J. Dodd (Conn.) joined the Republican critics.

Talmadge opposed provisions exempting U.S. and So-

viet consular representatives from criminal prosecution, and offered an amendment to strike it from the treaty.

Dodd urged ratification be made contingent on Soviet cooperation in terminating the Vietnam war and on "reduction of Soviet subversive activities."

The full Senate Republican conference was assembled to give GOP opponents of the treaty their say, and they made the most of it.

Sen. Karl E. Mundt (S.D.) heading up the critics, proposed two reservations. One was tied directly to developments in the Vietnam war. Mundt said it stipulated the treaty not take effect until either of the following conditions were met:

(1) The President inform Congress there was no longer a need for U.S. forces in Vietnam or (2) he advised legislators Soviet aid to Hanoi was not delaying or preventing return of U.S. troops.

The other Mundt reservation would require that Russia give the same right of free expression to U.S. consular representatives as a Soviet consul would receive in this country. It would also provide that Russia not limit the number

of American newsmen in Russia.

Sen. Roman L. Hruska (R-Neb.) told newsmen he is also considering an alternate approach—a Senate motion to postpone action on the treaty indefinitely.

The Republican critics appeared to be speaking for a minority in their own party. Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (Me.), chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, told newsmen she has not yet decided how she will vote, but believes a majority of Senate Republicans will support the treaty.

Sen. Thruston B. Morton (R-Ky.), a leader of the Republican moderates, warned his colleagues that a vote to amend the pact, or to write in a reservation, would be "a vote to kill the treaty. It would in effect be voting against the treaty."

Supporters of the treaty said quite frankly they are concerned about the plethora of proposed amendments. A treaty requires a two-thirds vote to ratify, but an amendment or reservation can be tied on by a simple majority vote.

Opposition mail was reported still flowing heavily into many Senate offices. Mansfield said his own mail against the treaty has slackened off, "but only slightly."

Despite Administration assurances that a Soviet consulate in this country would add only about 10 to the 452 Soviet officials, now in the U.S., opponents who took the floor yesterday bore down on alleged opportunities for subversion.

"Everyone knows each Soviet consulate would be a new Soviet spy nest," said Sen. Norris Cotton (R-N.H.), while Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) declared, "The Soviets will have for a long time

their war of subversion against the United States."

Supporters of the bill merely noted that provisions of the treaty are reciprocal.

Protester Hangs Self

Reuters

MILAN, Italy, March 8 — The body of a youth was found hanging in a railroad car on a Milan siding today with a note saying he was protesting recent rail strikes.

AP Wire Service

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